

Cont
51

17. (Amended) The method according to Claim 38, wherein the at least one oxidative stress factor is produced by at least one member selected from the group consisting of monocytes and lymphocytes.

D2

22. (Amended) The method according to Claim 38, wherein the mammal in need thereof has at least one inflammatory disease or symptoms thereof.

23. (Amended) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the at least one inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, rheumatic disease, and psoriasis.

D3

29 (Amended) The method according to Claim 39, wherein the mammal in need thereof has at least one inflammatory disease or symptoms thereof.

30. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the at least one inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, rheumatic disease, and psoriasis.

D4

36. (Amended) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the mammal in need thereof has at least one inflammatory disease or symptoms thereof.

37. (Amended) The method according to Claim 36, wherein the at least one inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, cancer, rheumatic disease, and psoriasis.

D5

38. (Amended) A method of reducing a level of at least one oxidative stress factor in the blood of a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v, wherein the level of the at least one oxidative stress factor is reduced compared to the level of the at least one oxidative stress factor in the absence of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v and the *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v is administered to the mammal in need thereof in at least 25 mL/d of oatmeal gruel comprising at least 1×10^9 cfu/ml or an equivalent amount of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v for a time period of from 3 to 6 weeks.

39. (Amended) A method of increasing a level of the fecal concentration of propionic acid in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v, wherein the level of the fecal concentration of propionic acid is increased compared to the level of the fecal concentration of propionic acid in the absence of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v and the *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v is administered to the mammal in need thereof in at least 25 mL/d of oatmeal gruel comprising at least 1×10^9 cfu/ml or an equivalent amount of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v for a time period of from 3 to 6 weeks.

40. (Amended) A method of reducing a level of adhesion of monocytes to endothelial cells in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v, wherein the level of adhesion of monocytes to endothelial cells is reduced compared to the level of adhesion of monocytes to endothelial cells in the absence of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v and the *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v is administered to the mammal in need thereof in at least 25 mL/d of oatmeal gruel comprising at least 1×10^9 cfu/ml

cont
56

or an equivalent amount of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v for a time period of from 3 to 6 weeks.--

Please add the following claims.

41. (New) The method according to Claim 38, wherein the mammal in need thereof has cancer.

42. (New) The method according to Claim 39, wherein the mammal in need thereof has cancer.

43. (New) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the mammal in need thereof has cancer.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

The amendment to Claims 38-40 is supported at page 4, lines 11-18, of the specification. New Claims 41-43 are supported at page 1, paragraph 5, of the specification. The remaining claims have merely been amended in order to ultimately depend from Claims 38-40. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 11, 18-21, 24-28, and 31-35 are cancelled. Claims 41-43 are new. Claims 15-17, 22-23, 29-30, 32-34, and 36-43 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.